



## District Meeting Minutes (Districts 1, 5, 7)

Thursday, February 28, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.  
San Diego, CA

### **Present:**

*Kortney Adams, NS Board of Registration of Embalmers & Funeral Directors*  
*Robert N. Barnes, CFSP, ICFSEB District 1 Director/ME Board of Funeral Service*  
*Glenn Bower, Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service*  
*Wayne Cavender, Dallas Institute of Funeral Service*  
*Chris Ferguson, OK Funeral Board*  
*Robert Gribble, ICFSEB District 5 Director/TN Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers*  
*Keri Haines, ICFSEB Exam Committee*  
*Lori Hayes, MO Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors*  
*Leili McMurrough, Worsham College*  
*Edward Muhleisen, ICFSEB District 7 Director /LA Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors*  
*John Rice, ICFSEB Exam Committee*  
*Steve Spann, John A. Gupton College*  
*Adam Tipert, NS Board of Registration of Embalmers & Funeral Directors*

### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Conference Past President, Edward Muhleisen, called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. PST. The meeting began with introductions of The Conference District Directors and representatives from Districts 1, 5, & 7.

### **II. Update on Conference Initiatives**

Mr. Muhleisen and Conference Examination Services Manager, Sarah Gill, gave an update on recent Conference initiatives. This included an overview of the Annual Report and the recently revised National/State Board Exam Candidate Handbook. It was noted that both documents are available on The Conference's website.

### **III. Current Regulatory Issues**

#### **A. Licensure Obstacles & B. Issues Facing Your Board**

The group shared various licensure and regulatory issues that many boards are currently facing. One of the discussions focused on penalties regarding delayed licensure renewals, and how some jurisdictions handle them. It was noted that many boards charge late renewal fees, while some send courtesy reminders in advance of the expiration date. The differences between electronic and postal mail licensure renewals were also discussed. The group noted a national trend towards streamlining the licensure process, with a discussion around a change in reciprocity requirements between different jurisdictions. It was stated that many jurisdictions are trying to make the path to licensure an easier process.

#### **C. Unlicensed Practice/Third Party Providers**

Concerns regarding third party providers were shared by many of the district representatives. Some attendees pointed out issues with reporting companies, while one district representative indicated their success with having local media coverage of the issues surrounding the use of third-party providers.

The general consensus of the group was that unlicensed practice is a district-wide issue. The Oklahoma representative shared their experience with conducting their own secret shopping of funeral homes to tackle unlicensed practice.

**D. Updates on Membership Polls**

Throughout the year, member boards can request for The Conference to poll other jurisdictions on various regulatory and licensure questions. The results of the recent polls were shared with the district representatives during the meeting.

**IV. District 8 Election to Board of Directors**

Robert Gribble, from the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers, was elected as District 5 Director of The Conference Board of Directors.

**V. Adjournment**

The meetings of districts 1, 5, & 7 adjourned at 11:34 a.m. PST.